

Senator Bye, Representative Walker and to the members of the Appropriations Committee.

I am writing as both an administrator (Regency Heights of Stamford), owner (Bethel Health and Rehabilitation), and a Connecticut Registered Nurse. My message is simple. The Nursing Home industry is in need of your help. Our ability to continue to provide quality care to Connecticut's frail elderly is in jeopardy. The care they deserve and I as a Connecticut Taxpayer want provided to them.

As a Registered Nurse, Administrator, and owner for the past 30 years I have watched as more and more resources are chipped away. Our Medicaid rate which is the payer source of over 70% of my residents doesn't even cover the cost of care and yet we all continue to provide the best care possible.

As a four star facility Regency Heights of Stamford is a valuable and important asset to our community. During Hurricane Katrina and Alfred we opened our doors to those frail seniors living in independent subsidized housing who could not be cared for in our emergency shelters. Upon request of our Mayor nine citizens resided At Regency Health Care for approximately 4 days without any payer source. We opened up the facility and provided showers and hot soup to all in need. Regency Heights of Stamford is a credit and valuable asset to

the Stamford community, this is kind of facility you want to thrive and who you want to available for your loved ones if needed.

In conclusion, I am asking that you work toward addressing the ongoing needs of our facilities by creating a payment system which incents nursing facilities, and to restore the cuts from last session.

I thank you for this opportunity to be heard and should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at Regency Heights of Stamford at 203 351-8300.

Sincerely,

Grace Lenox-Flight RN, MBA, FACHCA